

2013-14 School Health Update

PA School Health [c-paschool@pa.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 7:49 AM

Dear School Nurse Colleagues,

Welcome Back! Below is information to assist in starting School Year 2013-14. This information can also be found on the "What's New with School Health" page of our website, www.health.state.pa.us/schoolhealth.

Please share this information with school nurse colleagues.

Beth Anne

Contacts for School Health Questions

Effective Monday, June 10th, the primary contact for school health inquiries will be the Community Health Nurses in the respective State Health Centers. County specific information has been sent to Certified School Nurses via our e-mail distribution list. For schools located in counties with their own Health Department, you have been assigned to a neighboring State Health Center. The phone and fax numbers for each county can be located at <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/schools/14130>.

Also, at this link is a directory of school health topics and corresponding contact information. For example, if you have a question about kitchen inspections, the directory provides information for the Department of Agriculture.

Information Regarding Availability of Tubersol (TB Testing Solution)

Because of the current national shortage of the TB testing solution Tubersol, several schools have asked for a waiver of the mandate contained in Section 14-1418 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code requiring TB test results before a new employee, contracted worker or volunteer can start working at a school. The Department's regulations on TB testing, at 28 Pa. Code §23.44, require a tuberculin skin test to be administered by either (1) the intracutaneous Mantoux test method with the two-step tuberculin skin test procedure or (2) the percutaneous multiple puncture test method. The percutaneous multiple puncture test method of TB testing is no longer available, and the remaining test method requires Tubersol which is in short supply.

The Department of Health has no authority to grant a waiver the requirement in the Public School Code for a TB test before a new employee, contracted worker or volunteer may start working at a school. Pursuant to this notice, however, the Department announces a waiver of its regulation at 28 Pa. Code § 23.44 for purposes of acceptable alternative TB testing methods. Pursuant to this notice, schools may conduct TB testing in accordance with testing options approved by the CDC: 1) the use of APLISOL or 2) the IGRA blood test.

Schools should consult with their solicitors if medical providers are refusing to test school employees, contracted workers or volunteers on the basis the individual does not meet CDC TB risk criteria for testing.

Evaluation Tool for School Nurses and Dental Hygienists

The draft evaluation rubrics and guiding questions are now available for review on the "What's New with School Health" page, http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/schools/14130/what%27s_new_with_school_health/556690. These rubrics will be finalized in June and will become official for school year 2014-15.

2013-14 School Immunization Law Report

REMINDER: This report is due by October 15. Documents were sent to all schools. However, access to the electronic reporting system and hard copies of the requested forms are available at:

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/immunizations/14141/school_children_immunizations/557995

Access to Pennsylvania Statewide Immunization Information System (PA-SIIS)

This link will take you to the home page for the Statewide Immunization Information System (PA-SIIS),

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pa_statewide_immunization_information_system_%28pa-siis%29/14281.

This link will take you directly to the page for school nurses,

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pa_statewide_immunization_information_system_%28pa-siis%29/14281

[siis%29/14281/school_nurses/556459](#). Just complete and submit the requested information and you will be given access.

Lend a Hand, Save a Life CPR Challenge

We are excited to invite you to participate in the **Lend a Hand, Save a Life CPR Challenge**, a statewide campaign that seeks to educate Pennsylvanians on how to respond to sudden cardiac arrest, a leading killer of Americans. This campaign is a call to action for EMS providers, health educators and community leaders to teach the general public about sudden cardiac arrest and train as many people as possible across the commonwealth in the basic principles of CPR. Research has shown that when CPR is administered immediately after a sudden cardiac arrest, the survival rate can increase by 50 percent.

A resource packet and contact information can be accessed on the "What's New with School Health" page at, http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/schools/14130/what's_new_with_school_health/556690.

Get Smart Program (Judicious Use of Antibiotics)

The Get Smart Program targets children, childcare providers, early childhood education, school personnel, pediatricians, and parents to promote judicious antibiotic use and proper hand hygiene. The Get Smart Program is **hosting a drawing competition for PA residents ages 8 and younger** to prompt children to draw a picture about the importance of hand washing. The drawing competition runs through mid-November and the winners will receive prizes and drawings will be displayed on the program website. Entry forms, a flyer to advertise the competition, and full contest rules can be found at www.KnowWhenToSayNo.org.

In addition to advertising this competition at schools or with school children, the Get Smart Program has materials on antibiotic resistance including posters and pamphlets that could be displayed within offices or distributed during flu/cold season. If a school nurse is interested in learning more about Get Smart and would like to request these free materials, they can contact nmueller@pa.gov.

www.KnowWhenToSayNo.org contains information for the target populations about antibiotic resistance and is great reference resource for school nurses engaging parents and children in their health.

Healthy Events

Apple Crunch Day- October 23, 2013. Celebration ideas located at <http://prowellness.vhost.psu.edu/happenings/signature-events/apple-crunch>.

Go For the Greens- March 17, 2014. Celebration ideas located at <http://prowellness.vhost.psu.edu/happenings/signature-events/go-for-the-greens>.

Move it Outside- April 24, 2014. Celebration ideas located at <http://prowellness.vhost.psu.edu/happenings/signature-events/move-it-outside>.

Beth Anne Bahn, RN, CSN, CRNP | Director Division of School Health
Pennsylvania Department of Health | Bureau of Community Health Systems
625 Forster Street | Harrisburg, PA 17120
Phone: 717.787.2390 | Fax: 717.783.4790
www.health.state.pa.us

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